ACTION
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OSD 15	USIA 6	NSA 3

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: ATHENS, NEA/GTI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH
RETURNED BY DATE 6 MAY 1982
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FROM : Amconsul THESSALONIKI

DATE: Oct. 17, 1963

SUBJECT: Caramanlis' Tour of Northern Greece

REF:

After opening his 1963 electoral campaign in Thessaloniki (ConGen A-20 of October 10, 1963), Caramanlis began a tour of Northern Greece, October 7-12, which took him first to Western Macedonia where he spoke at Edessa, Florina, Kastoria, Kozani, Verria and Katerini. He then swung to the east, visiting and speaking at Serres, Drama, Kavalla, Xanthi, Komotini and Alexandroupolis.

As is to be expected, the pro-ERE press described each of these speeches as having been attended by large and enthusiastic crowds, while the CU press has minimized both the crowds and the enthusiasm, describing the receptions as "very poor." In the absence of any reliable press, lack of unbiased observers and the obvious inability of the Consulate General staff to accompany Mr. Caramanlis or visit outlying areas during this period, it is difficult to arrive at an objective evaluation. Evidence in the form of crowd pictures indicates, however, that Caramanlis was well received everywhere.

Throughout his tour, he made few references to the opposition, emphasizing instead his interest in the problems of the farmers in each area -- tobacco production and prices, protection for tobacco growers, export promotion, the need for rural industries, the problem of farmers' debts, surplus labor, emigration, etc.

In general, the impression gained is that Caramanlis has dismissed his opponents for the time being and has addressed himself instead to

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Decontrolled following: Oct. 15, 1973

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Drafted by: RSFolsom:bck 10/15/63

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

a review of the problems of Northern Greece and his ideas for their amelioration or solution. The effect of this constructive approach as opposed to a demagogic appeal is not as yet apparent.

Robert S. Folsom
Consul General

DECLASSIFIED